

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00723 111650Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00
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O R 111633Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7091
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 723

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, PDIP, PFPR, SF (TRANSKEI), SHUM
SUBJECT: VORSTER STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON TRANSKEI

REF: (A) DURBAN 227, (B) PRETORIA 2036,

1. ADDRESSING PARLIAMENT THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 11 ON THE
SUBJECT OF TRANSKEI, PRIME MINISTER VORSTER SAID HE REGRETTED
CHIEF MATANZIMA'S DECISION TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH SOUTH
AFRICA, BUT THAT TRANSKEI WAS AN INDEPENDENT NATION WHICH
WAS FREE TO MAKE ITS OWN DECISIONS. VORSTER DEVOTED MOST
OF HIS ADDRESS TO THE HISTORICAL STATUS OF EAST GRIQUALAND
AND OTHER AREAS CLAIMED BY TRANSKEI, ASSERTING THAT THE
LAND IN QUESTION HAD BEEN PART OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE LONG
BEFORE THE NATIONAL PARTY TOOK POWER. HE NOTED FURTHER HIS
VIEW THAT THE TERRITORIAL ISSUE HAD BEEN SETTLED PRIOR TO
TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE, AND THAT MATANZIMA HAD NOT EVEN
ASSERTED A CLAIM TO EAST GRIQUALAND UNTIL FEBRUARY
1977, SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER INDEPENDENCE. VORSTER
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ALSO REFERRED IN DETAIL TO LAND DISPUTES BETWEEN
TRANSKEI AND ITS HOMELAND NEIGHBORS CISKEI AND
KWAZULU, SAYING THAT THESE WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED
OUT BETWEEN CHIEFS MATANZIMA, BUTHELEZI AND SEBE.

2. IN THE COURSE OF HIS SPEECH, VORSTER QUOTED AT
LENGTH FROM MATANZIMA'S ADDRESS TO THE TRANSKEI NATIONAL

ASSEMBLY (REF B). HE SPECIFICALLY REJECTED CERTAIN OF MATANZIMA'S ALLEGATIONS, INCLUDING HIS REPORTED STATEMENTS THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAD "CALLOUSLY SLAUGHTERED AND BUTCHERED MILLIONS OF BLACKS IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF THEIR OBNOXIOUS APARTHEID LAWS," AND THAT THE SAG REGARDS TRANSKEI AS A HOMELAND RATHER THAN AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE.

3. IN REGARD TO SPECIFIC ACTION, VORSTER SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD WITHDRAW ITS AMBASSADOR BY THE END OF APRIL, AS REQUESTED, AND THAT TRANSKEI WOULD ALSO BE EXPECTED TO WITHDRAW ITS DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR STAFF FROM SOUTH AFRICA. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, INDICATE THAT THE SAG WAS CONTEMPLATING ANY FURTHER ACTION. HE CONCLUDED THAT "THE BALL REMAINS IN THEIR COURT," AND THAT "THEY HAVE MADE THEIR BED AND WILL NOW HAVE TO SLEEP IN IT."

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